

National Petroleum Reserve - Alaska

Public Hearings

Anaktuvuk Pass

1998

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NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE - ALASKA

ANAKTUVUK PASS HEARING

Anaktuvuk Pass Community Center
January 15, 1998

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 (On record - 7:30)

3 MR. AHVAKANA: (Inupiaq) Dee.

4 MR. RITCHIE: We welcome you from the village to this
5 meeting tonight and thank you for being here. We'd like to
6 introduce a few folks that are here from -- to help with this
7 meeting tonight and Sally Wisely is the Associated State
8 Director from BLM-Alaska, we're glad to have her with us
9 tonight. My name is Dee Ritchie, I'm the Northern District
10 Manager for BLM out of Fairbanks. With me tonight is Mike
11 Kunz. Mike is the Northern District Office Coordinator for
12 this project. Anne Morkill is meeting coordinator for this
13 project and Sharon Wilson is our public affairs, she's at the
14 table. And Dick Roberts from Mineral Management Service and
15 the BLM and NEPA coordinator here. And Dave Yokel, Dave will
16 talk to us just a little bit in just a few minutes about what
17 we're here for. And, of course, many of you know Arnold
18 Brower, Jr. who is representing the North Slope Borough on this
19 project, is the coordinator, has been with us. I have him down
20 as the North Slope Borough/BLM and so we're glad to have Arnold
21 with us on these.

22 MR. A. BROWER, JR: On that, I'll expect my
23 reimbursement and the rest of my check from BLM then.

24 MR. RITCHIE: Okay. The rest of your check. We also
25 have our court reporter, Joe Kolasinski, and he'll be taking

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1 the notes of this meeting, appreciate him being here with us.
2 Now before we turn the time back to Nelson, Arnold do you want
3 to tell the North Slope Borough folks who are here.

4 MR. A. BROWER, JR: Yeah. We have Jana Harcharek is
5 from IHLC. John Dunham, Deputy Director of Planning. Where
6 did everybody go. Harry?

7 MR. H. BROWER, JR: Here.

8 MR. A. BROWER, JR: Harry Brower, Jr. (Inupiaq) from
9 Wildlife Department. (Inupiaq) Karen and Dan (Inupiaq) Nuiqsut
10 and Barrow with the North Slope Borough. (Inupiaq)

11 MR. RITCHIE: Dave Yokel has been working on this
12 project for some time and we'll ask him to introduce this
13 subject and discuss a little bit with you about some of the
14 reasons why we're here today and tonight and give you a better
15 idea about some of the choices or alternatives that are there.
16 And also describe some of the language in this book and EIS.
17 As you all know this is a piece of the National Petroleum
18 Reserve that's north, quite a ways from this village, but the
19 North Slope Borough folks, the Mayor, thought that we should
20 come down to Anaktuvuk Pass and give you a chance to at least
21 see this. Some of you use that area.

22 So with that, Dave, if you'll.....

23 MR. YOKEL: I was going to introduce that as the sixth
24 alternative. Well, the Bureau of Land Management is developing
25 a management plan for 4.6 million acres in Northeastern part of

1 the National Petroleum Reserve for Alaska. And this tan area
2 is NPR-A, the National Petroleum Reserve. This area outlined
3 in red here is the area we are talking about in this management
4 plan. It's 4.6 million acres.

5 The plan includes the possibility of oil and gas lease
6 sales within this area, and the subsequent development that
7 could follow that. And the plan is now in draft form. Copies
8 of the draft have been sent to the village and there are a
9 couple there on that table.

10 Any such plan is required to present a reasonable range
11 of alternatives. And our plan includes five alternatives that
12 you can see in these next five maps. And these five
13 alternatives range from no oil and gas leasing anywhere in the
14 planning area, as depicted by the green color here. They range
15 from that on one extreme to leasing the entire 4.6 million
16 acres, as illustrated here by having the whole planning shown
17 in yellow. And then the three intermediate alternatives, this
18 one, this one and this one, would each offer varying portions
19 of the planning area for oil and gas leases, depicted by the
20 different amount of yellow in them.

21 Now all of the alternatives, this one and the other
22 three, that would provide for oil and gas leasing also include
23 language on how that oil and gas development and exploration
24 would be regulated to protect the resources and activities that
25 are on the land. And these five alternatives also include

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1 different designations for portions of that land to provide
2 further protections. The final decision, that comes at the end
3 of this planning process, could be any one of these five
4 alternatives, or it could be some combination of the features
5 of these various alternatives.

6 So we are here tonight to listen to your comments on
7 our draft management plan. And there's two areas of comments
8 that we are especially interested in. One, we're interested in
9 your comments on these five different alternatives, and, two,
10 we're interested in your comments on our analysis of the
11 impacts of these alternatives.

12 Thank you.

13 MR. RITCHIE: Thank you. And now we have, again,
14 Nelson Ahvakana with us who is going to be the Hearing Officer
15 tonight and he'll take over now and ask for your comments. And
16 he has a little speech that he needs to give, too. Thank you,
17 Nelson.

18 MR. AHVAKANA: Thank you, Mr. Ritchie. (Inupiaq)

19 The purpose of the hearing is to formally receive
20 comments on the Bureau of Land Management's Draft Integrated
21 Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for the Northeast
22 Portion of the National Petroleum Reserve - Alaska and the
23 ANILCA Section 810, (Subsistence) Evaluation and Finding. This
24 hearing is being held pursuant to the National Environmental
25 Policy Act, or NEPA, and the Alaska National Interest Lands

1 Conservation Act, or ANILCA. It satisfies NEPA's requirement
2 that BLM take public comments on major federal actions and
3 ANILCA's requirement that we conduct hearings on possible
4 actions which may impact subsistence resources or activities

5 Your comments tonight will serve several purposes.
6 Your comments on the ANILCA Section 810 subsistence evaluation
7 can tell us whether we have correctly identified and assessed
8 the effects of the various alternatives in the Draft EIS on
9 subsistence uses and needs and whether or not other lands are
10 available for the management schemes proposed and you can
11 suggest other alternatives which would reduce or eliminate
12 effects on public lands needed for subsistence purposes. You
13 can also tell us if the proposed findings in the Draft EIS are
14 accurate and whether we have left anything out of our
15 subsistence evaluation.

16 You can point out several other informations about the
17 resources or uses of the planning area which our draft document
18 may have overlooked and not analyzed correctly; we want to be
19 sure to have all the relevant information before we make a
20 decision. Also, you can provide us a sense of what the public
21 wants to occur on these lands. Decision-makers want to know
22 where the public stands on the issues involved in the future
23 management of this part of NPR-A, Alaska.

24 The Draft EIS was placed on the Internet on November
25 24th and paper copies were released to the public the first

1 week of December. Several public information meetings were
2 held in Alaska during December to answer questions about the
3 document and to promote dissemination of the Draft EIS.

4 This hearing is one of a series being conducted in the
5 Alaskan communities of Anaktuvuk Pass, Atkasuk, Barrow,
6 Nuiqsut, Wainwright, Anchorage and Fairbanks. Hearings in
7 Washington, D.C. and San Francisco, California are also being
8 held to ensure a full opportunity for the public to
9 participate.

10 In addition to these hearings, comments on the Draft
11 EIS have been accepted by the Bureau since December 12th, 1997,
12 the start of the official comment period and will continue to
13 be accepted if postmarked by February 10th, 1998. Comments may
14 be provided orally at these hearings, or in writing via the
15 Internet, by facsimile or by regular mail. Informational
16 materials with phone numbers, and addresses, including the
17 Internet address, as well as blank forms for comments are
18 provided on the table you see when you walk into this room.

19 All comments provided will be compiled, analyzed and
20 considered by the Bureau of Land Management in preparing the
21 Final Environmental Impact Statement, due to be released in
22 late June 1998.

23 The way we will proceed is I will call the names of
24 those who have indicated they wish to make oral comments up to
25 the microphone. You will then state your name, state which

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1 organization you represent, if any, and then give your
2 comments. If you have written comments, I will ask you to
3 provide them to me and I will interpret that to Inupiaq and
4 after that -- or me or Arnold. And after that we will give the
5 report to the court reporter.

6 There is no set time limit on comments, but I would ask
7 you to stay on the subject of this Draft EIS. So with that I
8 would like to open the hearing at this time and presently since
9 I have one request, he will be the first and at this time I
10 would like to call upon Mr. Earl Williams.

11 (No response)

12 MR. AHVAKANA: He probably chickened out because he was
13 the first one to be here. While he's not here yet, then I
14 would recommend that if anybody wants to come forward and make
15 their statements they can do that. (Inupiaq)

16 For the purposes of introduction this is Mr. Lincoln
17 Gilbert from Anaktuvuk Pass.

18 MR. LINCOLN: Gilbert Lincoln.

19 MR. AHVAKANA: Gilbert Lincoln. Lincoln Gilbert. He's
20 one of my little nephews.

21 MR. LINCOLN: (Inupiaq)

22 MR. AHVAKANA: (Inupiaq)

23 MR. LINCOLN: (Inupiaq)

24 MR. AHVAKANA: (Inupiaq)

25 MR. LINCOLN: (Inupiaq) Lincoln, last name. (Inupiaq)

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1 MR. AHVAKANA: Thank you, Lincoln. (Inupiaq)

2 Before the start of his comments, Mr. Lincoln indicated
3 and allowed to the tape his -- the names that were given to
4 him. I cannot repeat this because he was too fast for me. But
5 he would like to state -- and thought about this area for some
6 time and would like to state that the proposed area that is
7 being proposed now that he supports the village of Nuiqsut for
8 subsistence use of that area. Now he stated that if the area
9 that is being proposed is leased to oil and gas the area on the
10 eastern side of the Colville River should be opened also for
11 the subsistence use of that village, naming Prudhoe Bay/Kuparuk
12 area.

13 That area in 1965 was proposed and at that time when it
14 was proposed it was mentioned and said that the area would be
15 available for subsistence use by the people. Why is it that
16 after stating that, that it's not open for public, especially
17 for subsistence used area. He said he knows that the caribou
18 roams all over in that area and that there's fish also in the
19 lakes that are there on the eastern side of Colville River. He
20 also knows at early as 1965 when his uncle took him from Barrow
21 to Teshekpuk area, during that winter that they were there,
22 they were able to fish and he knows that practically every
23 river, every lake that are in that area does have fish.
24 There's white fish, sisko (ph) and other fish that are there
25 that the people of our Inupiat heritage have used every since

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1 he could remember.

2 Teshekpuk Lake is the biggest fresh water lake that --
3 and has some fish that nobody knows yet. And he supports
4 closing that area for the oil and gas and supports the village
5 of Nuiqsut to have the subsistence use and resources in that
6 area. If that area of proposed NPR-A, Alaska, which 4.6
7 million acres is to be opened for oil and gas, then the
8 subsistence use by the village should be maintained with
9 protections from the industry, so that the industry wouldn't
10 make any prohibitive regulations that would discourage any
11 subsistence use of that area.

12 And like he said, in as early as 1965 that land has
13 been indicated by the people that have leased that area, that
14 it would be opened. And whomever had drafted the Environmental
15 Impact Statement so stated also, that it would be open for
16 subsistence, but now why is it that after they indicated that,
17 it is not opened? He supports the village of Nuiqsut on this
18 proposed area. That area should be completely closed for oil
19 and gas as far as he's concerned because it's the only area that
20 the village of Nuiqsut residents are utilizing for their
21 livelihood.

22 (Inupiaq)

23 MR. L. RULLAND: (Inupiaq)

24 MR. AHVAKANA: Thank you, Lazarus

25 MR. A. BROWER, JR: (Inupiaq)

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1 MR. AHVAKANA: Lazarus Rulland also supports the
2 village of Nuiqsut and would like to see that that area is
3 opened for subsistence hunting. The resources are available
4 there which are renewable resources and he, himself, had stayed
5 with the Woods family at the mouth of the Nigaluk (ph) and
6 spent some time there with them fishing, hunting and trapping
7 and also during the summertime when the water fowl -- in that
8 are they hunted the birds also. But ever since when he was
9 quite young, at that time there wasn't any law that they knew
10 that would prohibit them from doing all this. Why is it that
11 these things are available now, is it because that things have
12 changed?

13 He would like to support the opening of the area that
14 is closed to Nuiqsut for subsistence use in that area. He said
15 that he didn't have too much, except that they wanted to say
16 what is that and supporting the relatives at Nuiqsut.

17 MR. A. BROWER, JR: (Inupiaq)

18 If you'll recall we had a panel in Atqasuk with the
19 subsistence panel and we had a representative from Anaktuvuk
20 Pass here and the concerns that she raised was if there was
21 enough footprints of Alpine, like, could block in the middle of
22 the impact area may alter the migration of caribou. And I'm
23 just trying to bring this up because we have, during the hard
24 times here, from Barrow have assisted folks maybe two or three
25 times to help them get their -- to harvest caribou from other

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1 areas, other than locally, as far as Nuiqsut and Umiat and
2 Atqasuk, I believe, in that assistance. So I just wanted that
3 -- to bring that out. I don't know who was involved with that,
4 if folks are here. But they have, at least, two or three times
5 on snowmachine made hunting trips or other things gone to
6 Nuiqsut and then you had the green from folks -- or have
7 reached Anaktuvuk, but it should be vice versa, like reverse
8 for the blue to have that because they have done that several
9 times in the past. Like Lazarus says, that he's been hunting
10 up there in the mouth of the Colville River with a family that
11 lived down there. They have family ties with Nuiqsut.

12 MR. MORRY: Hi, my name is Mike Morry, I here as a
13 concerned citizen or resident. And before we begin, I'd like
14 someone to point out for us on your developing map, which
15 caribou that migrate through here or around area travel up
16 north to those areas that they plan to develop in. Then I can
17 begin to address my concern.

18 MS. WISELY: Where's Dave?

19 MR. MORRY: Can you show our people which caribou that
20 migrate through here, though your studies that you've done,
21 migrate up north?

22 MR. YOKEL: The Teshekpuk Lake Caribou Herd calves in
23 this area of the planning area, in the area east of Teshekpuk
24 Lake, and some winters some of these animals do get into the
25 Anaktuvuk Pass area. There's a much larger herd that calves

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1 out here, the Western Arctic Herd, that probably makes up the
2 majority of the caribou that pass through Anaktuvuk Pass area.
3 There is also the Central Arctic Herd that calves in the
4 Prudhoe Bay area that's just off the map here, and some of
5 those animals, as well, come through Anaktuvuk Pass at times.

6 Does that answer it?

7 MR. MORRY: Uh-huh (affirmative). First of all I'm
8 aware that Nuiqsut is greatly affected by these development
9 proposals, but as he just showed caribou that migrate through
10 Anaktuvuk Pass also travel up north to these areas and these
11 herds are what our lifestyle here in Anaktuvuk is based on.
12 And for thousands of years the animals that migrate north have
13 followed their routes every year. These areas are summer home
14 to the caribou, among other wildlife. The caribou that
15 traveled north are the main source of subsistence for our
16 people.

17 I read into the plan, and recommendations that are
18 still to be decided in regard to the oil and gas leasing
19 possibilities, and I'm aware that this is given consideration,
20 these studies on the caribou and other wildlife. As we all
21 know the caribou follow their yearly pattern of travel through
22 undisturbed land. It's always been that way for them. A clean
23 safe environment. Let me stress two words again, "undisturbed
24 land".

25 Although we all know that production in Prudhoe Bay

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1 opened the door for us to see how wildlife is affected by
2 development, there is no way to see into the future and see how
3 the wildlife will react today, especially since this will
4 affect the caribou tremendously. More developed land on the
5 North Slope means less land for the caribou to herd on. No
6 matter how many precautions are taken, they will be affected.
7 No matter how many studies are done, they will be affected. In
8 turn, how they react could determine how much meat we have in
9 our freezers for the summer and winter. Although this is not
10 what really is going to happen to the caribou, there's no way
11 to determine the real outcome.

12 What I'd like to know is where the plan for development
13 is really headed, then we can see which areas are planned for
14 development and which herds are going to be affected by this.
15 I'd like to reiterate that development up north will affect
16 Anaktuvuk Pass and recommend all involved in planning this
17 proposal are aware that we, the Nunamuit, are concerned for our
18 future and how this will affect the caribou.

19 You can keep that, I'll get it afterwards.

20 MR. A. BROWER, JR: First I would recommend that you
21 enlarge your penmanship. (Inupiaq)

22 MR. HOPSON: For the record, my name is Ben Hopson, Jr.
23 and I serve as North Slope, Region 10, Subsistence Regional
24 Advisory Council Member as well the Gates of the Arctic
25 National Park SRC, Subsistence Resource Commission member.

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1 MR. AHVAKANA: You want to talk a little bit louder to
2 that mike.

3 MR. HOPSON: Okay.

4 MR. AHVAKANA: That's okay?

5 REPORTER: Yes.

6 MR. AHVAKANA: Okay, go ahead.

7 MR. HOPSON: (Inupiaq)

8 MR. AHVAKANA: Mr. Hopson indicated that he would like
9 to know what the thinking is in Barrow, Atqasuk and Nuiqsut on
10 the Draft EIS. And would want to say something after receiving
11 words of what these villages have already said.

12 For the record, over at Nuiqsut they're very, very
13 hostile because it takes their only livelihood, it's affecting
14 their livelihood. They also stated that the Alpine that's been
15 recently drilled and being developed have had greater impact
16 because it digs right next door to them. They don't know how
17 much impact they're going to have. For that reason some of the
18 people there have stated that development has gone too rapidly
19 for them. They should slow down, others are saying that
20 everything that they had commented before, what's the use of
21 making your comments and then it's not incorporated into the
22 EIS. What are these comments for, if you cannot even put them
23 in the EIS? They're very, very concerned at Nuiqsut.

24 I'm sure that over at Atqasuk and Barrow -- their
25 comments in Barrow when we were there was that the North Slope

1 Borough indicated that they would work with the outlying
2 villages and put everything together, their comments. And then
3 they would make their own recommendation.

4 The other villages have stated that they will work with
5 the North Slope Borough. Some areas are also hostile because
6 the government has never fulfilled their promises. At Atqasuk
7 the concern was basically on whether the village is going to be
8 allowed to have natural gas, if there's development. And they
9 were also concerned their cabins that they had built, camp
10 sites, fishing the areas and then the other subsistence uses
11 that they have, what are they going to do? Are they going to
12 change the migration route, what are they going to do, they
13 don't know, but they're concerned about those things.

14 There's some more, I guess, that these people would be
15 able to reiterate the concerns of these villages and at this
16 time I would like to ask if Karen would speak on behalf of the
17 Mayor of the North Slope and the additional concerns that these
18 villages have expressed during the hearing.

19 Karen, you want to come here and go ahead? You can use
20 this mike over here.

21 MS. BURNELL: Hi, Ben.

22 MR. HOPSON: Hi.

23 MS. BURNELL: (Inupiaq)

24 MR. AHVAKANA: Thank you, Karen. (Inupiaq)

25 MR. HOPSON: Only I have a concern for Anaktuvuk Pass

1 subsistence users. Anaktuvuk people depend a very large part
2 on caribou, you know, they have caribou in their blood here,
3 yeah. And for these reasons I would oppose to any oil and gas
4 lease sale in this whole area simply because Anaktuvuk
5 residents have prior knowledge of the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd
6 habiting the Anaktuvuk Pass area, especially wintering in and
7 around Anaktuvuk out in the foothills. One good example was in
8 the early '90s when the majority of the Teshekpuk herd
9 over-wintered just north of us out of this pass. In a lot of
10 years we have very lean caribou hunting situations, this is one
11 of those years where we're having a very lean caribou season
12 here.

13 And so that would my views, you know, to protect
14 Anaktuvuk Pass' livelihood.

15 MR. AHVAKANA: Thank you, Ben, for your comments.
16 (Inupiaq)

17 MS. AHGOOK: My name is Delia (ph) Ahgook, I'm a
18 resident here and lived here all my life and you can see I have
19 gray hair. That every day of my life when I'm home at
20 Anaktuvuk I got to have one meal a day with caribou. I cannot
21 miss having caribou meat the whole day because it's the way I
22 grow up. And I know it will affect all of us here in the
23 village and the other villages, like Nuiqsut, Atqasuk, Barrow,
24 Wainwright. It is our traditional food and, like I say, I have
25 not gone a day without having a bite to eat from caribou.

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1 And when that happens, what's going to happen to the
2 older people like us? I can eat steak but only one time. I
3 cannot eat it maybe two times a day, it makes me sick, even the
4 hamburger. Sometime I try pork chop, doesn't have very much
5 grease on it, but it doesn't taste like caribou either. So our
6 traditional living here is that us older people have to have
7 caribou meat.

8 And we support the villages up north, like Nuiqsut I
9 know they will also have that problem like we have had in the
10 years since the pipeline had come. And if those other villages
11 stop having caribou too, when our caribou doesn't come around
12 those villages up north they gather up money somewhere to bring
13 us caribou. They go out hunting and take just caribou to bring
14 up here because that's the only food we eat up here. We do eat
15 fish, too, but we only have little graylings in our river. And
16 they're usually easy to catch around last part of July and
17 August in our little river. Our kids can just throw rocks and
18 catch them, take them home. And if we want little bigger fish,
19 like graylings -- I mean Arctic chars and them big lakers, it's
20 about two hours drive up the west -- is that west or east?

21 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: West.

22 MS. AHGOOK: West. We have to drive that long to catch
23 the fish if we want different bigger fish. We have to drill a
24 hole about six, seven feet to put our hooks in that lake when
25 it's winter. That's when we want a change to mix caribou with.

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1 And it's really going to affect our life, so does the other
2 villages, if that thing is going to open. And our caribou
3 always go down to that Teshekpuk Lake or for the -- they always
4 come through in springtime to go down north to that Teshekpuk
5 Lake. And then after they have their calves in the falltime
6 they -- if somebody don't scare them off on their way coming
7 this way, they usually come back in the fall right through our
8 village and that's how we have our food gathered up for winter.

9 We dry the meat, we put away all the caribou pieces, we
10 don't throw the caribou. So my concern is if that drilling
11 ever happens it's going to affect all of us. And for years we
12 have heard that they will help all they can with stopping the
13 caribou from traveling but I don't think that has stopped, I
14 mean, you know, we go hungry when there's no caribou. So
15 that's my concern and I'd like to also support the other
16 villages that's going to be affected. We only eat our
17 subsistence lifestyle.

18 Thank you.

19 MR. AHVAKANA: I want to thank you, Delia, for your
20 comments.

21 (Inupiaq)

22 MR. J. RULLAND: Good evening. Johnny Rulland.

23 (Inupiaq)

24 MR. AHVAKANA: Thank you, John. What Mr. Rulland would
25 also like to say that he supports the closure of NPR-A, Alaska,

1 from oil and gas, primarily because it will affect the
2 livelihood of all people, including themselves. He stated also
3 that ever since he was able to move when he was young from the
4 coastal area to this area at Anaktuvuk Pass he stays in this
5 area a lot more because this is where he's living now. But he
6 hears that people here sometimes would talk about a need for
7 caribou. Sickness come to them and it's apparent that without
8 caribou not available there's sickness in the village here.

9 What would happen if the migration route of the caribou
10 would change because they have been affected by the development
11 of oil and gas. When something like this happens they have to
12 request assistance from the North Slope Borough or from the
13 other communities. And it's very, very costly to this, to
14 allow other means of subsistence hunting, utilizing other
15 means, other than what they have here available for them.

16 It is also apparent that this village has been affected
17 by the creation of the Gates of the Arctic, affected by the
18 Fish and Game that regulates the area here, that allows
19 prohibition of the use of their own land that they used from
20 time immor -- ever since they can remember. That's a lot
21 better. And especially -- the only fish that they harvest is
22 over at Kantelek (ph). When those fish are taken for research
23 they have known that they cannot allow to get their catch
24 because something happens.

25 And it's a same thing with the caribou, when the

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1 Wildlife people for the sake of just wanting to learn how far
2 caribou could travel would put a collar and by doing that they
3 don't realize that they're harming the livelihood of the
4 community, just to find out how far they could travel in one
5 given year. These things what are being implemented it affects
6 the caribou, it's exactly what Mr. Hopson had said earlier,
7 that for some reason the caribou becomes lean and are subject
8 to some infection that they don't know about. This is what
9 Johnny was referring to also in his statement.

10 He again stressed the importance of supporting the
11 other villages that are going to be affected and if they are
12 affected then they, themselves, here in this village, even
13 though that the distance is long but will be affected also
14 because of their livelihood of caribou, if the migration route
15 would change.

16 (Inupiaq)

17 MR. LINCOLN: (Inupiaq)

18 MR. AHVAKANA:

19 MR. LINCOLN: (Inupiaq) My name is Gilbert Lincoln and
20 I move up here in 1973.

21 MR. AHVAKANA: 19 what?

22 MR. LINCOLN: '73. The caribou migration has been
23 changed rapidly because of the road or too many traffic (sic).
24 Mostly the caribou with the collar don't have enough fat and
25 the meat always taste different. I think if they took the

1 collar off from the caribou I would be satisfied or if I see
2 one I'll kill and leave the collar right there because I won't
3 eat it, too skinny. The problem we got, they put too many
4 collars. And some cows that come through here this fall, I saw
5 two cows with a collar, I think they don't even have fat. They
6 were -- probably had more worms than my dog had worm because of
7 the collar. And besides that it hurt the skin. You can see
8 when it moves around right here, it rubs the fur.

9 I shot one maybe seven years ago and I left the collar
10 over -- and they go pick it up because that caribou I saw I
11 didn't want it to be hurt like that. It only had hair about
12 that long, the rest of it gone around the collar. If I see
13 some more like that I'll kill but I'll take it home for dog
14 food. I don't care what the Fish and Wildlife says, because it
15 hurt the caribou.

16 And the earth is getting old. We don't -- they don't
17 hardly use the cellar now because the heat. I think if they
18 provide us a big freezer, like Fairbanks, or someplace they got
19 walk-in with one -- that guy or the fishing management -- one
20 up here for the Natives so they can have food for the summer.
21 The freezer is not enough for the family, if you got a big
22 family. I'd like to see somebody build a walk-in freezer, that
23 what -- like freeze the beef right away, right on a walk-in
24 freezer, that how you get the beef, like we hardly can eat beef
25 anyway, mostly we're dependent on caribou migration.

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1 God gave it to us to eat and Fish and Game is stingy
2 about the caribou. Stingy about the fish. God gave it -- the
3 person that built the earth gave it to us, to the people to
4 eat. Now they have told us there's not enough caribou, not
5 even fish maybe. Some of the fish we got over at the channel
6 with the tag on them, they're skinnier than without a tag. And
7 the meat taste different, the one with that tag on the fish.

8 They're learning, they want to know how far they're
9 migrating, that collar -- I think some of them right now don't
10 even have an inch of meat right now because that collar is
11 rough and hurts. Maybe if you put one of your guys, put a
12 collar in there, let you walk around, maybe your skin would
13 have infection on it too.

14 I think that's all I got to say, thank you.

15 MR. AHVAKANA: Thank you, Lincoln. (Inupiaq)

16 MR. A. BROWER: (Inupiaq) Gilbert moved here in
17 Anaktuvuk Pass in 1973. Gilbert has been very concerned with
18 caribou with collars.

19 MR. AHVAKANA: Yeah, I was wondering if you're going to
20 do it. Yeah, I wasn't going to stop you.

21 MR. A. BROWER: Nobody else caught me, I caught myself.
22 Nobody said anything.

23 MR. AHVAKANA: I wasn't going to say anything.

24 UNIDENTIFIED: (Indiscernible - away from microphone)

25 MR. A. BROWER: Yeah, right. (Inupiaq)

1 MR. AHVAKANA: (Inupiaq)
2 MR. A. BROWER: (Inupiaq)
3 MR. AHVAKANA: (Inupiaq)
4 MR. A. BROWER: (Inupiaq)
5 MR. AHVAKANA: (Inupiaq)
6 MR. A. BROWER: (Inupiaq)
7 MR. AHVAKANA: (Inupiaq)
8 MR. A. BROWER: (Inupiaq)
9 MR. AHVAKANA: With that I would like to turn the floor
10 back to Mr. Ritchie.
11 MR. RITCHIE: Thank you, all. It's always a pleasure
12 to have Arnold with us and to be with you folks here tonight.
13 Thank you for your comments and for your concern. In Nuiqsut
14 last night I wanted to end with -- Leonard Lampe came up to me
15 afterwards and said, you know, where you going next? And I
16 said, Anaktuvuk Pass. He said, you know, it was from Anaktuvuk
17 Pass that we all got our friendliness and our kindness and we
18 don't want to lose that. And I have noticed that and
19 appreciate that and I appreciate Leonard for noticing that and
20 knowing that. So with that, thank you again for all you do and
21 for your concern and we'll close and see you on another trip
22 north.
23 (Off record - 10:07 p.m.)
24 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)
25

**Translations
Selected
Testimonies**

Anaktuvuk Pass

Page 3, line 3:

Nelson Ahvakana: At this time we are going to open the meeting and before we begin, I'd like to give this to Dee Ritchie, head of this BLM group, and he will introduce his group that he has with him and how they are affiliated, etc. Dee.

Page 4, line 8:

Arnold Brower Jr.: Harry Brower Jr., my cousin, from Wildlife Department. We've been told that Karen had just gone over to the museum and should be back shortly. Karen and Dan, apparently they're both coming back at this time, they traveled with us from Nuiqsut and Barrow with the North Slope Borough. They were involved in drafting the DEIS on the NPRA.

Page 6, line 18:

Nelson Ahvakana: For those who don't understand English, the first one I will translate is what Dave just talked about. BLM have been given a job to prepare a document that deals with the 4.6 million acres of land. This is northeast of where NPRA is located on the map. This whole area on the map is what they call NPRA-Alaska. And this one here southwest of Nuiqsut that includes Teshikpak, going through Ikpikpak and Kuukpik. That area has the size of 4.6 million acres. They are interested in opening it up for to oil drilling. The oil found would then be sold outside. If oil is found, there are plans to construct a pipeline. It has not been finalized yet though. They are interested in showing you five alternatives and we have given you copies of them.

The first one here is shaded green. And it means that if you select that, the oil companies could not enter it whatsoever. They would not be looking for oil at that spot. It will be kept in its present status.

And over here in the area shaded yellow, it would mean that oil companies could take it and drill for oil off of it. They would be doing seismic testing in that whole area. If oil is found, they will do whatever it takes to extract it from the ground and construct a pipeline to transport it. They will probably go through here to do that. It also includes the area below Teshikpak Lake, under Teshikpak.

Two, over here, including Teshikpak going all the way to Ikpikpak River and east of it where the calving grounds and nesting areas are, they would not be touching these areas I just described. These rivers too would not be touched in any way. Including the Colville River. The yellow shaded area is where they would do seismic testing for oil. From Ikpikpak through Kuukpik, excluding the land that Nuiqsut owns which is small, site of some cabins and those owned by the corporation, this particular area would be available to sell to the oil companies.

And over here, including Teshikpak, is where they would be able to drill underground. And this one in front of this small area here is where the caribou have their young. That area would not be touched and would

be left alone. This is also where the geese have their young too and that would not be touched. All of that area including Teshikpak, would be accessible to the oil companies. They have outlined them for your consideration. There are two in particular that they are asking you to consider amongst yourselves. The first one would mean if they fulfilled their promise, which one would they select? The Corps would also be able to make a determination to use all three also. They will have the option of using all three to come up with a decision. They want to know your views on that.

The other one is the possible risks involved directly affecting the Iñupiat people and their way of life, the land that the Iñupiat have used since time immemorial. The question being asked is how to best settle this issue when the oil companies start their seismic testing. They are interested in your concerns with respect to these matters. Those were the two that they outlined for your consideration.

When BLM first set out with this project, I was asked by them to participate and so I told them I accepted their offer of assistance although I did not know anything. I was asked if I wouldn't mind translating for them in their travels to the villages. That was when I told them that I could. I do not know what the whole project entails. I was given the title of Hearing Officer. And now what is happening is that I am running the whole show while they sit back quiet in their seats when they should be the ones running the show. It is okay. The fact that it is that way, it should enable us to stop them when we feel it is time to.

With me here also is Joe Kolasinski and he is the court reporter. Everything that you say is all going to be recorded onto tape. At this time I would like to give you the agenda that we're going to follow at this hearing. This is called the Bureau of Land Management Draft Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement. That is what the BLM has been given the job of conducting. The northeast portion of the NPRA-Alaska is what they are here to meet with you people about.

There are two rules that have to be adhered to. The first one is what we call ANILCA located in Section 810 and subsistence is the issue surrounding it. Everything that people subsist on, whether it is game or plant life, is what it is defined as. The other one is called NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act). It is through these two that they have been granted the power to conduct these hearings. This evening if you are going to talk, what you say can be very helpful to them.

The first issue dealing with Subsistence in Section 810 is to figure out what has been said about it is accurate. They also want to know other things that have not been clarified on the Draft EIS on subsistence, use of the land, etc. You can also ask them to do away with the selection sights and offer other alternatives. It is clear that the concerns you bring about with respect to subsistence and the risks involved dealing with oil drilling will help you. They want to be informed of whether what they have

written is accurate or not and want to hear your concerns. They want to know exactly what game the Iñupiat people depend on as well as others like plant life which they can make note of in their reports and how it is that they subsist on the land. The Draft EIS has also been put over the Internet. It was made available to the public in December. They began conducting meetings in December answering questions on the Draft EIS. This hearing this evening is being run in the villages of Anaktuvuk Pass, Atkasuk, Barrow, Nuiqsut, Wainwright, Anchorage and Fairbanks. The hearings have been used in Washington D.C. and San Francisco to give the public a chance to voice their concerns where the 4.6 million acres of land is located in NPRA-Alaska. The hearings are open to your concerns with respect to the Draft EIS. They say that they will continue with the hearings via letters, over the Internet, or via facsimile. They have included a telephone number as well as their address and the Internet address where you can reach them. There are forms for you to fill out and you saw them as you came in the door at this table over here. The hearings conducted at these villages will be gathered together and examined before comments are put in from the villages concerns on the Final Environmental Impact Statement. In June you will be able to review it because that is when they are estimated to be available to the public.

For those of you who don't know, there is a microphone here that has been provided for anyone interested in coming to talk. But before he/she comes to talk, you need to specify your name and the organization, if you belong to one, that you are affiliated with. Then proceed to give your speech. Whether you speak in English or Iñupiaq there will be a translation done in Iñupiaq and one done for those who are English speakers. Write down your concerns and I will make sure it is given to our recorder, Joe. We are not going to set limits as far as people speak so as to provide you with enough time to convey your concerns. We, including myself and Arnold Brower Jr. And these BLM employees will be listening to your concerns.

While a person is speaking, I urge you to listen to him/her talk and to keep from talking amongst yourselves during the time that a person is speaking. Everything that is said will be recorded into this.

For those who don't understand Iñupiaq who might be coming to speak, I will read a portion of this in English. I will begin with this.

Page 9, line 11:

Someone: He went outside.

Page 9, line 15:

Nelson Ahvakana: Anyone can come to speak, regardless of whether he is Iñupiaq or a caucasian. The floor is open at this time if you have a concern to bring up. You can speak in Iñupiaq and it will be translated to English.

Page 9, line 21:

Gilbert Lincoln: Is it ready?

Line 22: Nelson Ahvakana: Yes.

Line 23: Gilbert Lincoln: Say my name first?

Line 24: Nelson Ahvakana: Yes.

Line 25: Gilbert Lincoln: I am going to say my whole name.

Line 26: Nelson Ahvakana: Go ahead and say your whole name.

Line 27: Gilbert Lincoln: Gilbert Palanana, Siġaammġu, Uġiaġnaġ and Lincoln is my last name. About that which they just got through talking about, I thought about it very thoroughly going back some time ago. They made a big mistake when they tried to open up land on this side. If they are interested in opening that area by Teshġpak, the coastal ġġupiat whom we live with up here, they have the means to open it up if they make that area accessible for us to hunt in. It has a lot of fish. My uncle Siġatġutaġ took me traveling with him including the area around Teshġpak, through the many lakes and they all have fish that can be found in them. There may be a few that don't have fish because they are so shallow to begin with, sometimes five feet deep.

Side 1B:

Gilbert Lincoln: Why did the oil companies lie after telling them that hunting was not restricted in that area when they put a restriction on it? We are under too much of their (white man's) control. It may be good to let the oil companies know that they cannot, under any circumstances, do any seismic testing in that sixty some acres of land and only after they start permitting us ġġupiat to hunt in their area then go ahead and give them the okay to look for oil. There is something wrong with that. We all love to eat fish. We especially love to eat food that is caught from the ocean. Including fermented walrus flippers, they are good to eat as well.

When my uncle took us to Teshġpak in 1965, we traveled for a total of two and a half months around the whole area of Teshġpak which Siġatġutaġ, my uncle, had knowledge of. When we reached the lakes nearby, large round-nosed white fish could be found in them. And in the smaller rivers, you could find white fish. You know where they exist. All the larger lakes near Teshġpak have fish that can be found in them which you can catch by nets. There are three larger sized lakes that have not been indicated on the map here that I can see towards Teshġpak. There are white fish as well as the large, round-nosed white fish that can be found east of Teshġpak.

And in the small rivers you can find big burbot. And Arnold, I know, has discovered where they're located. If the oil companies are planning to open that area up for seismic testing, if hunting were to be permitted in the area by (?-inaudible) it would be good because that is where the

caribou usually can be found as well as ducks/geese, and fish and we have discovered that to be true. Back in 1965, the oil companies made assurances that the Iñupiat people would be able to hunt in the area where drilling was scheduled to take place, it appears that they just spoke out to make us believe it. They have forgotten the assurances that they gave. So I think that if seismic testing is prohibited in that area until we are actually told that we can hunt in that area where we have not hunted for so long, it might well be worth it. Thank you.

Page 11, line 22:

Nelson Ahvakana: Do we have another person who would like to come and speak at this time? Who is that person coming now to talk?

Page 11, line 23:

(?): Your cousin.

Page 11, line 24:

Nelson Ahvakana: State your name.

Page 11, line 25: My name is Lazarus Rulland from Anaktuvuk (Pass). I spent some time at Nigliq hunting, fishing and trapping with the Woods family. I would want that area near Nuiqsut to be accessible to that village for subsistence use because I too fished with the Kisiq family one year until freeze-up time. The lakes which we have used for subsistence since time immemorial all have fish in them. You can also find caribou in the mouth of Nigliq when they begin migrating through there by the hundreds. As a young man, I first went to the Nigliq area just learning how to hunt game. I helped my cousins, the Kisiq family, when they hunted game too. I want that area that is being targeted by the oil companies to be opened for subsistence by our people because I, too, have hunted in that area ever since I learned how to go hunting. When I went with that family, I recall a time when I would walk through water. I did not mind it when I was running along with them during the hunts. I don't have too much else to say but what I have just said right now.

Page 11, line 25:

Arnold Brower Jr.: Lazarus, have you ever ridden a snow machine from Anaktuvuk Pass to here? I know that some of your relatives had ridden a snow machine some time back and that is why I'm asking you.

Page 12, line 17:

Arnold Brower Jr.: Some time ago when we held a meeting at Nuiqsut, he told me that when caribou were not easy to find, he would go up east in search of caribou. The area shaded blue, indicates that that is how far you people go to hunt for caribou or trapping for fur. When we met the last time, there seemed to be some things missing and so if you want to add

more that would be good. Also in Nuiqsut the area shaded green there were reports that people there went as far as Anaktuvuk Pass a number of times. What hasn't been marked is whether people from Anaktuvuk Pass do, in fact, travel as far as Nuiqsut. I want to hear more from you people here if you do travel, how far it is that you go, etc.

Page 16, line 7:

Ben Hopson Jr.: Before I go on, I would really like to hear how the hunters of Barrow, Atkasuk, and the Nuiqsut feel about that area of land in question. I will have more to say after a response is given.

Page 17, line 23:

Karen Burnell: It is a privilege to be here having a meeting with those of you who have come. Once we have listened to your concerns we will be giving a report to the people of BLM before a decision is made as to what is going to be done with NPRA. We're here to discuss a big chunk of land totaling 4.6 million acres that is close to Nuiqsut. It is also clear that since last year when the Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt was here, he was here to find out about the possibilities of developing more oil at that area of land. It is very understandable to the North Slope Iñupiat people that their subsistence way of life is going to be heavily impacted by oil development if it is done at that location. That area of land which we have used since time immemorial is very important to our way of life as Iñupiat people. The game gather there and it is where they have their young also. They also go through there in the winter months on their migration. It's been reported that some go all the way to Anaktuvuk also. Ducks and geese gather there by the hundreds nesting in that area as has been reported by the residents of Nuiqsut and from the Department of Wildlife Management. Many hunters do their hunting there. Another area of land where they are interested in doing seismic testing for oil is where the Teshikpak Lake caribou herd go through. Many people also have cabins in that area as well as sod houses that we do not want the oil companies to get their hands on. The North Slope Borough operates on the property taxes which are coming from the oil companies. And while that is the case, it is also important to state how that area of land by Nuiqsut is more important to the Iñupiat people because it would be directly impacted by oil drilling. The North Slope Borough feels that oil drilling should not be done in that area whatsoever. If it turns out that we cannot stop the oil companies from doing the drilling, we will do our best to control their operations through the North Slope Borough and the Coastal Management Program. We in the Borough have opposed any offshore oil drilling and been in support of drilling on shore. So we want them to be very careful if they are going to be looking for oil in this area because it will be affecting a lot of people. It is our thought that the game which we depend on for our subsistence are going to be declining if further oil development is

going to take place. Statements were made which can be found in the huge report dated April 18, 1997, under Appendix 1 of the front page. We're also going to be presenting more to BLM after we've gathered information from the villages about their views and their concerns. If oil drilling is inevitable, I will read off the stipulations that they would have to abide by. They will have to assign people to be in charge of watching the game that we depend on, our land, as well as our traditional hunting grounds. All of those that we have indicated which pertain to our Iñupiat way of life, the traditional hunting grounds, the locations of our cabins, we will work to make sure they are not trespassed by the oil companies. ASRC has not completed the land selection from that area too. We do not feel that they should go ahead without first completing that. We also want them to lay out which parts of the land are going to be impacted, the ways that they will go about to ensure that we will be protected as far as our subsistence way of life is concerned and to present to us far in advance so that we can have adequate time to respond to their plan. We will also want to co-manage the game that we depend on in the areas that are going to be affected. Everything that has been laid out in the Coastal Management Program which we played a part in coming up with as far as rules and regulations with respect to the usage of land is what they will have to make sure they abide by. Teshikpak Lake is the one area that we do not want for the oil companies to touch because we do not know fully the damage a mishap could cause if it were in that area. They talk about drilling oil from underneath and going through below that Lake but because we do not know the full extent of the possible damages that could occur, it is our opinion that it would be directly impacted negatively. So we are prohibiting that area from becoming available when the lease sales begin. The oil companies have done a lot of damage to our land already. Take for example, the area in Umiat. All they did was clean up the surface before they left. What happened was the whole area was damaged and started leaking to Kuukpak river. We have also heard that the fish in that area were affected. When they went to examine the area, it had already done some damage to the fish that were in that area. From the five alternatives, it is the view of the North Slope Borough not to select any one of those sites. We don't approve of those sites at all. But what we have come up with are possible sites we think the oil companies could go ahead and choose from indicating the sites of the cabins that our people up here utilize, their hunting sites, anything that would not be affected by oil drilling.

When Babbitt was up here, he talked about how they had made mistakes trying to control the people in the last five hundred years. He also stated that they did not want to repeat their mistakes. If oil development begins, that is what we're going to be reminding them about. Once the hearings are done, we will be coming up with a final report to give to them that protects our way of camping areas and the

game that we depend on. Thank you.

Page 18, line 16:

Nelson Ahvakana: Do we have another person who is interested in speaking? What are your views and concerns?

Page 20, line 23:

Johnny Rulland: Good evening. I'm Johnny Rulland. I, too, am in support of the whole area that is being presented to being off limits for oil drilling. Because it is potentially very devastating for the caribou herd and we don't know where and at what time that could come once drilling starts. That is going to affect all the villages of the North Slope for that reason. Ever since I began living in Anaktuvuk Pass, there have not been too many times that I have left it because it became my home as a young person. When caribou were not plentiful in Anaktuvuk Pass as we have this winter from the herd migrating from the coastal areas or nearby, I heard people who were in need of caribou but could not get to them. We *lñupiat* up here are all like that. When we don't have caribou to eat, we are prone to getting sick. We talk about desiring to have a taste of caribou after not having it a while over the CB. We begin to talk about planning to go hunting and looking for the caribou because it is our main staple. I am prone to getting sick if my diet consists of only white man's food for a short time. That is because I did not grow up eating white man's food. I was brought up eating caribou meat ever since I was born.

If the oil companies and the caribou end up getting pushed to one area of land and their usual migratory route is disrupted, it will only end up with us not being able to hunt them because they may end up in restricted areas that the oil companies will label restricted to us after seeking help from the North Slope Borough. If the oil companies could be prohibited from touching the area of Teshikpak which has in it a lot of fish, it is fine with me. The fish we have in the Chandler River aren't very plentiful now since research was done to them by the Department of Fish & Wildlife. That is what they did also to the caribou and it makes me wonder if something is going to happen to the way they normally taste. It could be other things too that they think they could not do any damage to the *lñupiaq* up here-things that can go through his body that is foreign that he can pick up unknowingly that the caribou pass on. They do this by putting collars on the caribou just to find out how far they travel and they don't think there is any harm in doing that whatsoever.

About our subsistence way of life, attempts were made to control us that prohibited us from hunting in our traditional hunting grounds that our forefathers had hunted in. That did not go well with us when they began prohibiting us from hunting in a particular area of land. The white man only has money in mind when they set out to do things that affect people and wherever it is that there is a potential of money to be made

disregarding the very people who live there. That is what they are doing to the Iñupiat people who have lived here since time immemorial affecting their subsistence way of life. Thank you.

Page 22, line 16:

Nelson Ahvakana: Whatever your views may be, this is the time to do it.

Page 22, line 17:

Gilbert Lincoln: Let me say something one last time.

Page 24, line 15:

Nelson Ahvakana: (inaudible)